

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. FORCES, TEXAS,

PASS CAVALLO, JANUARY 30TH, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS,

No. 14.

It is known to the world, that, on the 8th day of December, ultimo, the President of the United States published a proclamation which touched the heart and inspired the tongue of every lover of liberty on the civilized earth. Its burden is PARDON and LIBERTY.—“Thy sins be forgiven thee.”—“Let the oppressed go free.”

Such parental care of a people has not been exhibited to the world since the patriarchal days of old: Not since the Savior of men cried to the multitude, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

In order that the deluded and oppressed people of this State may be enlightened and informed on the subject, and may rejoice at the dawning of day from behind the black night which has surrounded them with darkness which might be felt and enabled the evil spirits to work upon them; it is directed that a sufficient number of copies of the President's Proclamation be printed, at these Head Quarters, to supply whatever demand there may be for the same, coming from each and every company in the command; and all officers and men are desired to use every opportunity which properly presents itself to distribute them in the interior of the State.

It is further ordered that all persons, now or hereafter within the lines, who have ever claimed to be citizens of the United States, or of the so called Confederate States; or who have aided or comforted the rebels in their hostility against the United States, and who have not, since the commencement of the rebellion, taken an oath renewing their allegiance to the United States, may have the opportunity of enjoying the full benefits of the said proclamation, by voluntarily taking the oath therein contained.

The Provost Marshal is required to take a census of the population now within the lines, in order that such persons as may not wish to enjoy the benefits of the proclamation, may be known, and be assigned a convenient place of residence where they will not have opportunity to do injury to the cause for which we fight. He will proceed, in the most thorough manner possible, and will give public notice of his orders and regulations to consummate the end in view, and will report, on the 10th day of February, proximo, the list of those persons who refuse the benefits of the proclamation.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL

N. J. T. DANA.

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PROCLAMATION.—WHEREAS, In and by the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that the President shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment; and

WHEREAS, A rebellion now exists, whereby the loyal States and governments of several States have for a long time been subverted, and many persons have committed and are now guilty of treason against the United States; and

WHEREAS, With reference to said rebellion and treason, laws have been enacted by Congress, declaring forfeitures and confiscation of property and liberation of slaves, all upon terms and conditions therein stated, and also declaring that the President was thereby authorized, at any time thereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion in any State, or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions, and at such time and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon accords with well established judicial expositions of the pardoning power; and

WHEREAS, With reference to said rebellion, the President of the United States has issued several proclamations with provisions in regard to the liberation of slaves; and

WHEREAS, It is now desired by some persons, heretofore engaged in said rebellion, to resume their allegiance to the United States, and to inaugurate loyal State governments within and for their respective States—

Therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare and make known to all persons who have directly, or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a full pardon is granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and in property cases where the rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate, and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effects as follows: "I do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God."

The persons excepted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions, are all who are or shall have been civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate States, and all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion, and all who are or shall have been military or naval officers of said so-called Confederate government above the rank of colonel in the army or lieutenant in the navy, and all who left seats in the United States Congress to aid in the rebellion, and all who resigned their commissions in the army and navy of the United States, and afterwards aided the rebellion, and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons, or white persons in charge of such, other than as prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United States service as soldiers or seamen, or in any other capacity; and I do further proclaim, declare and make known, that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one-tenth in number of the votes cast in such State at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord 1860, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the State existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others, shall re-es-

establish a State government which shall be Republican, and in no wise contravening said oath, which shall be recognized as the true government of the State; and the State shall receive thereunder the benefit of the constitutional provision which declares that the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion, on application of the legislature, or of the executive, when the legislature cannot be convened, against domestic violence. I do further proclaim, declare and make known, that any provision which may be adopted by each State government, in relation to the freed people of such State, which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom and provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent, a temporary arrangement with their present condition as a laboring, landless and houseless class, will not be objected to by the national executive. And it is engaged, as not improper, that in constructing a loyal State government, in any State, the name of the State, the boundary, the subdivision, the constitution and the general code of laws, as before the rebellion, be maintained, subject only to modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, which may be deemed expedient by those framing the State government. To avoid misunderstanding, it may be proper to say that this proclamation, so far as it relates to State governments, has no reference to States wherein loyal State governments have all the while been maintained, and for the same reason it may be proper to further say, that whether members sent to congress from any State shall be admitted to seats, constitutionally rests exclusively with the respective Houses, and not to any extent with the executive; and, still further, that this proclamation is intended to present to the people of the States wherein the national authority has been suspended and loyal State governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the national authority over every loyal State government may be re-established within said States, or in any of them, and while the mode presented is the best the executive can suggest with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would not be accepted.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the 8th day of December, A. D. 1863, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth.

[Signed]

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

